

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KIGALI 00429 01 OF 02 121503Z

46

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-13 ADP-00 AID-20 PC-04 OMB-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 OC-06 CCO-00 SR-02

ORM-03 RSR-01 /159 W

----- 064890

P R 101450Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY KIGALI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2539

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KAMPALA

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

USMISSION USUN NY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 KIGALI 0429/1

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT RW

SUBJ: RWANDA COUP

REF: KIGALI 0428

1. SUMMARY: NEW GOVERNMENT SENDING DELEGATIONS
NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES TO EXPLAIN TAKEOVER AND ASSURE
SUPPORT. CLAIMS IT RECEIVING MESSAGES OF CONGRATULATIONS
AND SUPPORT FROM THROUGHOUT COUNTRY AND ABROAD. EMBASSY'S
PRELIMINARY SOUNDINGS VINDICATE GOVERNMENT'S CLAIMS
GENERAL INTERNAL APPROVAL. POPULACE APPARENTLY WAS
GENERALLY DISILLUSIONED SHORTCOMINGS KAYIBANDA GOVERNMENT
AND EXPECIALLY OF "POLITICIANS," ADMIRE HABYALIMANA AND
ANTICIPATE IMPROVEMENT. ADDITIONAL SOURCES HOLD
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PAGE 02 KIGALI 00429 01 OF 02 121503Z

HABYALIMANA AND OFFICERS ACTED WHEN THEY BELEIVED

THEIR LIVES IN DANGER. IN INTERVIEW WITH LE SOIR, HABYALIMANA CLAIMED THERE WAS PLAN TO EXTERMINATE PEOPLE NIGHT OF COUP AND NATIONAL GUARD SAID HALT. END SUMMARY.

2. GOVERNMENT RADIO ANNOUNCES THAT GOR DELEGATIONS HAVE GONE TO BUJUMBURA, KAMPALA, KINSHASA, NAIROBI AND DAR ES SALAAM CARRYING PERSONAL MESSAGES TO OPPOSITE NUMBERS FROM GENERAL HABYALIMANA, "RWANDAN CHIEF OF STATE AND PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR PEACE AND UNITY." DELEGATIONS ARE MIX OF HIGH RANKING MILITARY OFFICERS AND RESPONSIBLE CIVILIAN OFFICIALS. SAME ANNOUNCEMENT REPORTS DELIVERY BY ZAIRE AMBASSADOR OF MESSAGE FROM MOBUTU TO HABYALIMANA ACKNOWLEDGING MESSAGE FROM LATTER. MOBUTU IS QUOTED AS COMMUNICATING INTER-ALIA "WE PLACE HIGH PRICE ON PEACE, UNITY AND UNDERSTANDING IN YOUR REGION; WE DO NOT DOUBT YOU WILL WORK TO CONSOLIDATE NECESSARY PEACE IN INTEREST OUR RESPECTIVE PEOPLES AND WE WISH MUCH HAPPINESS AND TRANQUILLITY TO RWANDAN PEOPLE." ANNOUNCEMENT CONTINUES THAT HABYALIMANA EUKED AMBASSADOR CONVEY WARM THANKS TO MOBUTU FOR HIS "UNDERSTANDING AND SUPPORT" AND TO REPORT HE HAD SENT PERSONAL MESSAGE TO MOBUTU GIVING REASONS FOR TAKEOVER BY NATIONAL GUARD AND SETTING FORTH IMMEDIATE OBJECTIVES. ANNOUNCEMENT ALSO SAYS HABYALIMANA "CONTINUES RECEIVE NUMEROUS TELEGRAMS OF FELICITATION AND SUPPORT FROM RWANDAN CITIZENS AND RWANDAN AMBASSADORS ABROAD AS WELL AS FROM FOREIGN COUNTRIES."

3. CURFEW NOW BEGINS 8:00 PM INSTEAD 6:00 PM AND IT ANTICIPATED IT WILL BE FURTHER RELAXED AND PROBABLY ELIMINATED SOON FOR CONDITIONS SEEM PEACEFUL THROUGHOUT COUNTRY.

4. IN CONVERSATIONS WITH SUCH RWANDANS AS PASTOR OF LARGEST CATHOLIC PARISH IN KIGALI, OFFICIALS AT AIRPORT, ASSISTANT MANAGER OF HOTEL, SERVANTS AND LOWER LEVEL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, WE GET DEFINITE IMPRESSION THAT ORDER AND TRANQUILLITY PREVAIL THROUGHOUT COUNTRY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 KIGALI 00429 01 OF 02 121503Z

AND THAT TAKEOVER HAS BEEN GENERALLY RECEIVED WITH FAVOR AND IN SOME CASES ENTHUSIASM. THIS REFLECTS OF COURSE LATENT MALAISE AND GENERAL DISCONTENT BY FAILURE OF FORMER GOVERNMENT TO DELIVER REVOLUTION'S EXPECTATIONS AND WIDESPREAD FEELING OFFICIALS AND POLITICIANS WERE SELF-SERVING. CONTINUATION APPARENT GENERAL APPROBATION OF NEW REGIME BEYOND THIS HONEYMOON PERIOD WILL OF COURSE DEPEND ON GOVERNMENT'S

PERFORMANCE AND WHETHER IT CAN INCULCATE AND MAINTAIN
FEELING OF FORWARD MOVEMENT. MAJORITY OF PEOPLE
TALKED TO SEEMED AWARE AND CONVINCED, WITHOUT KNOWING
DETAILS, THAT KNOWLEDGE OF A PLOT TO KILL THEM
PRECIPITATED NATIONAL GUARDSMEN TO ACT.

5. BELGIAN AMBASSADOR INFORMS ME HE HAS APPROVAL
TO MAKE A BRIEF TRIP TO BRUSSELS WHERE, AS REPORTED
EARLIER, HE WILL ARGUE FOR GOB SUPPORT OF THE
HABYALIMANA REGIME. HE TELLS ME MAJOR ALOIS NSEKALIJE
HAS REPLACED MAJOR GAHIMANO AS OFFICER-IN-CHARGE
MINISTRY OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION.

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PAGE 01 KIGALI 00429 02 OF 02 110813Z

46

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6. BELGIAN JOURNALIST ETIENNUE UGEUX NOW KIGALI
SUBMITTED LIST OF QUESTIONS TO HABYALIMANA WHO THEN
GAVE UGEUX INTERVIEW. WE UNDERSTAND HIS STORIES

ABOUT TO APPEAR LE SOIR BRUSSELS. REQUEST EMBASSY
BRUSSELS POUCH COPIES THESE STORIES TO DEPARTMENT
AND KIGALI SOONEST AND TO NEIGHBORING EMBASSIES.
ACCORDING OUR INFORMATION, JOURNALIST ASKED
GENERAL WHAT WAS MEANING OF PHRASE IN GUARD'S FIRST
ANNOUNCEMENT THAT "THIS VERY NIGHT COUNTRY WAS
GOING DOWN THE ABYSS FOREVER" AND ALSO WHETHER
GENERAL HAD PREPARED FOR COUP BEFOREHAND, AS SOME
CHARGED, OR WHETHER IT WAS SOMETHING SUDDEN AS
WOULD SEEN PROBABLE BY FACT WHEN PRESIDENT KAYIBANDA
SUMMONED HIM NIGHT OF JULY 4-5 HE WAS FOUND IN HIS
PAJAMAS. HABYALIMANA RESPONDED THAT "DECISION WAS
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PAGE 02 KIGALI 00429 02 OF 02 110813Z

TAKEN SUDDENLY TO SUSPEND POLITICAL ACTIVITY AND NOT
THE RESULT OF A SINGLE EVENT. IT RESULTED FROM A
NUMBER OF ELEMENTS THAT HAD BROUGHT ABOUT A PHYCHOSIS
OF TENSION AND DIVISION. THE INCIDENT OF 4-5 JULY
SIMPLY CAUSED OVERFLOWING OF CUP ALREADY TOO FULL.
AND THAT SAME NIGHT THERE WAS A PLAN TO
EXTERMINATE CERTAIN PEOPLE AND WE SAID NO TO THIS
SLAUGHTER." HABYALIMANA WENT ON TO EXPLAIN THAT
THE "TIRED" KAYIBANDA HAD LET BAD POLITICIANS
MANIPULATE HIM AND THESE PEOPLE HAD DONE THEIR BEST
TO SHAKE KAYIBANDA'S CONFIDENCE IN HABYALIMANA.
DISAVOWING THAT THE GUARD WAS PREPARED BEFOREHAND
FOR THE COUP, HE SAID "THE RAPIDITY AND EFFICIENCY
OF THE ACTION WE TOOK ARE DUE ENTIRELY TO THE COHESION
AND THE DISCIPLINE OF THE NATIONAL GUARD AND ITS
OBEDIENCE AND ATTACHMENT TO ITS CHIEF." HE SAID
DECISION WAS TAKEN AT THE VERY LAST MOMENT "WHEN I
REALIZED THE EXTENT OF THE DANGER." HE REMARKED
HE HAD SPENT THE ENTIRE DAY AT GISENYI WITH HIS
CHILDREN WHERE HE HAD GONE IN CONNECTION WITH FORTH-
COMING MARRIAGE OF HIS BROTHER. IN ANSWER TO QUESTION
HOW HE EXPECTED TO GOVERN WITHOUT A POLITICAL
STRUCTURE, HABYALIMANA SAID IT WAS NOT NECESSARY
TO ENGAGE IN POLITICS TO GOVERN, THAT THE DECISION
TO ACT WAS A UNANIMOUS ONE OF THE HIGH COMMAND OF
THE NATIONAL GUARD WHO WILL "ASSURE THE COUNTRY'S
DESTINY UNTIL NORMAL ORGANISMS ARE CREATED AND
FUNCTIONING." AT ANOTHER POINT IN INTERVIEW
HABYALIMANA SAID THE GUARD WOULD GOVERN
UNTIL POLITICIANS HAVE IN EFFECT REFORMED AND ARE
ABLE TO WORK TOGETHER "AND NOW WE ARE GOING TO
EXAMINE THE POSSIBILITY OF NORMALIZING THE
SITUATION BY THE FORMATION OF A NEW GOVERNMENT."

7. REFERRING TO THE ETHNIC VIOLENCE OF FEBRUARY
AND MARCH, HABYALIMANA CHARGED THAT THE AUTHORITIES

WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR LETTING MATTERS GET OUT OF
HAND WHICH "I SINCERELY THINK COULD HAVE BEEN
STOPPED BEFORE IT WAS TOO LATE." HE SAID ANY
MEMBER OF THE FORMER GOVERNMENT WOULD HAVE TO ADMIT
THAT WAS TRUE. HABYALIMANA ALSO WAS CRITICAL
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PAGE 03 KIGALI 00429 02 OF 02 110813Z

OF THE EXPULSIONS OF FOREIGNERS COMPLAINING THAT,
IN SPITE OF FACT HE WAS CHARGED WITH NATIONAL
SECURITY, CERTAIN EXPULSIONS HAD TAKEN PLACE WITHOUT
HIS KNOWLEDGE OR AGAINST HIS ADVICE. HE SAID "IT
IS, MOREOVER, REGRETTABLE THAT MANY OF THESE EXPULSIONS
WERE INSPIRED BY PERSONAL RANCOR."
CORRIGAN

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